

## PUBLIC BUILDING AT LOCKPORT, N. Y.

JANUARY 18, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. GILLET, of New York, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9861.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds make the following report on the bill (H. R. 9861) for the erection of a public building at Lockport, Niagara County, N. Y.:

The city of Lockport, the capital of Niagara County, is situated in the center of the county, 55 miles from Rochester, 20 miles from Niagara Falls, and 25 miles from Buffalo, on the Erie Canal and the New York Central and New York, Lake Erie and Western railroads, the railroads crossing the canal by a bridge 500 feet long and 60 feet above the water.

Its population is over 18,000, and it has also a large suburban population who receive mail at the Lockport post-office. It is the center of a rich agricultural and fruit-growing district, and has large quantities of very fine limestone and of sandstone flagging.

The water of the Erie Canal is here raised 60 feet by 5 double combined locks, and the surplus water is distributed by means of a hydraulic canal, three-quarters of a mile long, to various manufactories, furnishing an immense water power, which constitutes one of the chief sources of the city's prosperity.

The manufactures are very diversified—aluminum, pumps, paper, brass bedsteads, machinery, wool, cotton and flour mills, mill machinery, glass, etc., and the capital employed amounts to \$10,000,000.

The aggregate receipts of the Lockport post-office for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, were \$26,470.77, and the net revenue to the Government from this source was \$11,052.82. The number of money orders issued and paid was 18,791, representing the sum of \$115,561.26.

Lockport was incorporated as a city in 1865, and owing to its commercial importance was made a free-delivery office in March, 1885. It has several national and other banks; graded and high schools and Catholic female seminary; several daily and weekly papers, and twenty churches. The importance of the postal and other Federal business at Lockport demands that there should be provided a convenient fire-proof building, containing fireproof vaults, built expressly for Government purposes.

It is believed that this can be done at an expenditure, including the cost of the site, of \$60,000.

Your committee therefore recommend that the bill be amended by striking out, in line 12, the words "one hundred," and substituting the word "sixty," and that as so amended it do pass.